

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A composition comprising protein of the UCP family, or protein fragment of the UCP family, as an active agent, alone or in association with at least one other active agent.

16. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the aforementioned protein fragments of the UCP family are peptide fragments of which the number of amino acids ranges from 3 to 200, and more particularly from 7 to 50.

17. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the active agent is a peptide of formula (I)

(AA)_n - Pro - X₁ - X₂ - X₁ - X₃ - Lys - X₁ - Arg - X₄ -
X₅ - (AA)_n

wherein:

X₁ = Leu, Thr, Val;

X₂ = Asp, Glu;

X₃ = Ala, Val;

X₄ = Leu, Phe, Tyr;

X5 = Gln, Ile, Met;

(AA) is any particular amino acid or one of its derivatives, and n is a whole number ranging from 0 to 2.

18. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the active agent is a peptide chosen among peptides corresponding to:

- 1) Pro Leu Asp Thr Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO. 1)
- 2) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Val Arg Phe Gln (SEQ ID NO. 2)
- 3) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO. 3)
- 4) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Valley Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO. 4)
- 5) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Valley Arg Phe Gln (SEQ ID NO. 5)
- 6) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Ile (SEQ ID NO. 6)
- 7) Pro Val Asp Val Valley Lys Thr Arg Tyr Met (SEQ ID NO. 7)
- 8) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Met (SEQ ID NO. 8)
- 9) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Tyr Ile (SEQ ID NO. 9).

19. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 18, wherein peptide has ~~sequence ID N°~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 (1), i.e. the sequence Pro-Leu-Asp-Thr-Ala-Lys-Val-Arg-Leu-Gln.

20. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the peptide is selected among peptides from which at least one functional group is protected by a protective

group, this protective group being either an acylation or an acetylation of the amino terminal end, or on an amidation or an esterification of the terminal carboxyl end, or both.

21. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the active agent is present, in the composition, with a concentration ranging from approximately 0.05 to 500 ppm, and preferentially with a concentration ranging from approximately 0.1 to 50 ppm compared to the total weight of the final preparation.

22. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the active agent is beforehand solubilized in one or more cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable solvents like water, ethanol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, ethoxylated or propoxylated diglycols, cyclic polyols, vaseline, a vegetable oil, or any mixture of these solvents.

23. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the active agent is beforehand solubilized in a cosmetic or pharmaceutical vector, like liposomes, or adsorbed on powdery organic polymers, mineral supports like talcs and bentonites, and more generally solubilized in, or fixed on, any cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vector.

24. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 15, wherein the peptide is in an amount sufficient to treat cellulite and/or orange-peel skin; and/or in order to reduce, eliminate, or prevent excess subcutaneous fat.

25. (previously presented) A cosmetic and/or dermatological and/or pharmaceutical composition characterized in that it contains, in an acceptable medium, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide such as defined according to claim 15.

26. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, characterized in that it takes the form of a cosmetic and/or dermatological composition adapted for cutaneous topical administration including a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable medium.

27. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 25, characterized in that said composition can take the form of an aqueous, hydro-alcoholic, or oil solution; or under the form of oil-in-water emulsions, water-in-oil emulsions, or multiple emulsions; or under the form of creams, suspensions, or powders. These compositions can also be more or less fluid or solid and can take the form of creams, lotions, milks, serums,

ointments, gels, pastes, mousse, or sticks.

28. (previously presented) A process of cosmetic care to reduce, eliminate, and/or prevent excess subcutaneous fat, and/or intended to fight against cellulite, and/or to fight against the phenomenon of orange-peel skin, characterized in that one is administered to the surface of the skin an effective quantity of a composition defined according to claim 25.

29. (previously presented) A process treating excess subcutaneous fat, cellulite, or orange-peel skin, comprising administering to the skin of a subject an effective amount of a composition according to claim 15.

30. (previously presented) A process treating excess subcutaneous fat, cellulite, or orange-peel skin, comprising administering to the skin of a subject an effective amount of a composition according to claim 17.